

Hearing before the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee

**Erin D. Benham
February 3, 2015**

Good morning Senator Duff, Representative Janowski, Senator Kane, Representative Buck-Taylor and distinguished members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee.

My name is Erin Benham and it is an honor and privilege to be appointed as a member of the State Board of Education by Governor Dannel P. Malloy. I thank the committee for the opportunity to share some information about myself, my commitment to education, and my desire to serve as a Board Member.

I have been married to Richard Benham for 36 years. We have two grown children, Thomas and Elizabeth and are the proud Grandparents of Korbyn Benham. I reside in Wallingford where I was born and raised.

I have taught in the Meriden Public Schools for 35 years. I am currently a Literacy teacher and the Subject Area Specialist for English Language Arts at Lincoln Middle School. I am also the President of The Meriden Federation of Teachers (MFT).

As a Meriden educator and the President of the MFT, I have collaboratively worked with the teachers and administrators of Meriden to launch Professional Learning Communities, 3 Extended Learning Time Schools and the creation and implementation of our present Teacher Evaluation system. The partnership of the Meriden Federation of Teachers and the administrators of Meriden is a unique and productive relationship. We work together for the betterment of students and educators as we face the educational challenges of the 21st century. It is a collaborative and productive relationship that realistically examines these challenges and finds solutions. It is a relationship that I am most proud of and believe it has greatly contributed to the success our district shares.

As a lifelong educator with experience in SRBI, curriculum, evaluation and leadership I believe I can be a beneficial resource to the State Board of Education. I take the appointment by the Governor with sincere commitment and dedication. It would be an honor and privilege to serve on this board. I thank you for your time and consideration of my nomination.